

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-2, 7-8, 13 and 15-18 are now pending in this application, new claims 17 and 18 having been added by the present Amendment. Claim 7 has been allowed. Claims 1-2, 8, 13 and 15-16 stand rejected. The rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

Claim Objections

Claim 16 was objected to for informalities. Specifically, the Examiner requests that the acronym “CMOS” should be explicitly described as “Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor” once in the claim.

Claim 16 has been amended to obviate the Examiner’s objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 16 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 7-8, 13 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by **Freeman** (Re 34,363). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons set forth in detail below, it is respectfully submitted that **Freeman** does not disclose or suggest that the signals input into each of the first inversion section (first inverter) and second inversion section (second inverter) have logic levels opposite to each other, as recited

in claims 1, 2, 13, 15 and 16. Moreover, **Freeman** does not disclose or suggest the transmission section recited in claims 1, 2, 13, 15 and 16.

The Examiner recognizes that elements 21 and 22 of **Freeman** are inverters that invert the logic level of input signals. However, **Freeman** does not disclose or suggest anything regarding the relationship between the input signals input to the two inverters 21, 22. More specifically, in order for claims 1, 2, 13, 15 and 16 to read on the **Freeman** reference, the logic of the input signal A must be an inverse relation to the logic of the inverse signal B. However, **Freeman** does not disclose or suggest anything about a relationship between the signal A and B. More particularly, **Freeman** is totally silent regarding an inverse relationship between the logic of the signal A and the logic of the signal B.

In the cited reference, there is a path on which neither the signal A nor the signal B pass through the inverters, and switching between A and /A, and B and /B, is available by selecting C2 and /C2, and C3 and /C3, respectively. Therefore, it is not clear that by appropriately selecting configuration control bits e.g., C2, A and /B or /A and B can be input to the gate circuit at a later stage, whereby the effect of the inversion sections of claims 1, 2, 13, 15 and 16 is realized.

However, **Freeman** does not detail the controlling of each input C. That is, switching among C2, /C2, C3, and /C3 is considered to be arbitrarily performed in **Freeman**. **Freeman** does not disclose or indicate anything about a particular operation such that if A is selected, /B is output, while if B is selected, /A is output.

Therefore, Freeman does not disclose or suggest the transmission section recited in claims 1, 13 and 16. Further, the first and second outputting sections of each of claims 2 and 15 correspond to the transmission section of claims 1, 13 and 16. Therefore, **Freeman** does not disclose or suggest the first and second outputting sections of claims 2 and 15.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that **Freeman** does not disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 1, 2, 13, 15 and 16. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 13, 15 and 16 are respectfully requested.

Claim 8

Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and patentably distinguishes over the **Freeman** reference for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Further, the Examiner asserts that the transmission lines for the signals A, bar (A), C2 and bar (C2) correspond to the claimed first switching section provided on an input side of the first inversion section 21 and performance switching of whether the first input signal is passed to the first inversion section or blocked off in accordance with an external control signal (see Office Action, page 4, lines 10-18).

However, contrary to the examiner's assertion, there is nothing shown in Fig. 2 of **Freeman** that performs switching of whether the input signal is passed to the inversion section 21 or blocked off. The input signal A is *always* passed to the inversion section 21. Input signal B operates in the same manner as signal A.

Therefore, **Freeman** clearly does not disclose or suggest the features recited in claim 8. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 are respectfully requested.

New Claims 17 and 18

New independent claim 17 recites a first inversion section, a second inversion section and a transmission section in the same manner as claim 1, discussed above. It is submitted that claim 17 patentably distinguishes over the **Freeman** reference for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

New claim 18 recites the invention in terms similar to claim 8. New claim 18 patentably distinguishes over the **Freeman** reference for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 8.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

Application No. 09/522,470
Group Art Unit: 2193

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 000267

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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